



# THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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## INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

July 6, 2012

TO: Members, Subcommittee on Energy and Power

FROM: Subcommittee on Energy and Power Staff

RE: Hearing on "The American Energy Initiative"

On Tuesday, July 10, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. in room 2322 of the Rayburn House Office Building, the Subcommittee on Energy and Power will hold the twenty-third of a multi-day hearing entitled "The American Energy Initiative." This day of the hearing will focus on the challenges and opportunities facing alternative transportation fuels and vehicles. Witnesses are expected to testify on the status of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), flex-fuel vehicles, and other federal and private-sector efforts to encourage the development and use of alternative fuels and vehicles.

### **I. WITNESSES**

#### **Panel I**

**Mr. Joseph Petrowski**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Cumberland Gulf Group

**Mr. Jack Gerard**  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
American Petroleum Institute

**Mr. Robert Dinneen**  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Renewable Fuels Association

**Mr. Thomas Tanton**  
Executive Director and Director,  
Science and Technology Assessment  
American Tradition Institute

**Mr. Michael McAdams**  
President  
Advanced Biofuels Association

**Mr. Michael Breen**  
Vice President  
Truman National Security Project

**Dr. Richard A. Bajura**

Professor, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering  
Director, National Research Center for Coal and Energy  
West Virginia University

**Panel II**

**Mr. Gregory Dolan**

Executive Director – Americas/Europe  
Methanol Institute

**Mr. Shane Karr**

Vice President, Federal Government Affairs  
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers

**Mr. Donald Althoff**

Chief Executive Officer  
Flex Fuel US

**Mr. Thomas Hassenboehler**

Vice President of Policy Development and  
Legislative Affairs  
America's Natural Gas Alliance

**Ms. MaryAnn Wright**

Vice President, Global Technology and Innovation, and  
Chair, Electric Drive Transportation Association  
Johnson Controls Inc.

**II. BACKGROUND**

Pursuant to the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and other statutes, a host of Federal programs are underway to develop and deploy alternatives to petroleum-derived motor fuels and the vehicles that run on them. High gasoline prices and Middle East instability have heightened the public's interest in these efforts.

Each alternative transportation energy source - biofuels, electricity, methanol, natural gas, and others - offers a unique mix of potential benefits as well as economic and technological obstacles to overcome. Some require advances in vehicles for which research and development is ongoing. Some necessitate changes to the existing motor fuel supply chain, while others will need an entirely new infrastructure. Many entail costs that need to be reduced in order to expand market penetration. The most widely deployed alternative fuel to date is corn-based ethanol, which is a major part of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) established in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, and other statutes.

To date, petroleum-derived fuels still dominate the transportation sector, and that is unlikely to change in the near term. But over a longer time horizon, increased diversity in the fuel supply and vehicle mix is much more likely and current and proposed measures will shape that transformation.

This hearing will focus on non-governmental perspectives only. A separate governmental hearing is scheduled for July 17, 2012, and will include as witnesses representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy, and Energy Information Administration.

### **III. ISSUES**

The following issues will be examined at the hearing:

- Current status of the RFS, and implementation challenges facing producers, blenders, and marketers of renewable fuels;
- Prospects for meeting future conventional and advanced biofuels targets under the RFS, and the logistical issues related to their incorporation into the fuel supply;
- Prospects for other alternative energy sources, such as methanol, natural gas, and electricity, and the infrastructure necessary to supply them;
- Current and proposed efforts to diversify the nation's vehicle fleet to include flex-fuel, natural gas, electric vehicles, and others; and,
- Impacts of various alternative fuels and vehicles on the cost of driving, the economy, jobs, and national security.

### **IV. STAFF CONTACT**

If you have any questions regarding this hearing, please contact Ben Lieberman at (202) 225-2927.